I. AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 3 to 7, 57 to 66, and 69 to 71 without prejudice. Please amend claims 1 and 67, as indicated below. Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A fusion protein comprising:

a) a reporter polypeptide comprising a C-terminal Lex A-B42 transcription factor linked to a linker polypeptide comprising a protease cleavage site;

~~wherein said reporter polypeptide is a transcriptional activator;~~ and

b) a repressor polypeptide comprising an N-terminal fragment of CD4 that represses ~~the~~ transcriptional activity of the reporter polypeptide by conferring a specific localization in a cell such that the reporter polypeptide has reduced transcriptional activity, wherein said repressor polypeptide is linked to the linker polypeptide, and

wherein, upon cleavage of said linker polypeptide at said protease cleavage site, an increase in the transcriptional activity of said reporter polypeptide can be detected.

2. (Original) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein said protease cleavage site is a caspase cleavage site.

3 to 66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently amended) A fusion protein comprising:

a) a reporter polypeptide comprising a C-terminal Lex A-B42 transcription factor linked to a linker polypeptide comprising a protease cleavage site;

~~wherein said reporter polypeptide is a transcription factor;~~ and

b) a repressor polypeptide comprising an N-terminal fragment of CD4 or an amyloid precursor protein that represses transcriptional activity of the reporter polypeptide by conferring a specific localization in a cell such that the reporter polypeptide has reduced transcriptional activity, wherein said repressor polypeptide is linked to the linker polypeptide, and

wherein, upon cleavage of said linker polypeptide at said protease cleavage site, an increase in the transcriptional activity of said reporter polypeptide can be detected.

68. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 67, wherein said protease cleavage site is a caspase cleavage site.

69 to 71. (Cancelled)